Erin Coleman

Unit Proposal

Engl 3391 SP09

* + TITLE OF UNIT: Family Perspectives: How does your own family’s make-up and beliefs influence how you interpret texts?
  + TARGETED COURSE AND GRADE LEVEL: General Literature Class, Grade 10
  + TIME FRAME: 5 week unit with 2-3 90 minute block classes per week
  + KEY TEXTS:
    - “A Mango Shaped Space” by Wendy Mass
    - “Princess Academy” by Shannon Hale
    - “Treasure Island” by Robert Louis Stevenson
  + RATIONAL: The focus of this unit is for students to understand that their own family impacts what they read. To take that a step farther, students should recognize that everyone has different family backgrounds and because of those differences, every person will have a different experience when reading a text. We will be focusing on how each student’s individual family life changes how they analyze their readings, and how someone else’s family situation is also a valid and important way to interoperate as well.

* + RELATION TO OTHER UNITS: This unit could follow a classical text unit where students are becoming more familiar with past writing styles, and literary terms because there is a classical text in this unit. Also, the two YA books selected for this unit plan are full of literary devises such as imagery, empathy; metaphors etc. and students could apply that vocabulary to this unit with a better grasp of those terms. This unit could be a nice lead in to a unit on slavery because it will begin the concepts of understanding how a person’s individual life can change how a text is read.

* + THE THREAD: The thread that holds these texts together are the hugely varying families represented in them. These texts offer a way to explore different family make-ups and how they change the way the characters interact in these stories. They offer a variety of family circumstances that the students could either relate to, or examine what those differences could make in their own lives.